

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

THE POET AND THE
RECTOR'S DAUGHTERCompton Mackenzie's Story of
English Rural Life—A Tale
of War and Peace.

BOOKS ON MANY THEMES

Compton Mackenzie's story of "The Poet and the Rector's Daughter" (Harper and Brothers) tells of a poet who with-drew into a beautiful piece of coun-try for the purpose of making him-self immortal with his pen, and there met the rector's daughter. "With her reserve and her pale gold hair she seemed as she greeted him to be in-dewed a wreath of the moon"—that, however, was only a sister of the heroine.

The rector had three daughters, all handsome, and only one was dark; but to be fair enough to resemble a wreath of the moon was the fortune of Monica only. Margaret was the dark one. She was more substantial than Pauline, more obviously rooted in the earth; we think she laughed oftener, and we attach to her the merit of being considerably more reassuring. The three sisters were gathering mushrooms when Guy, the poet, with a considerable professional objective still before him, informally made their acquaintance. He loved Pauline.

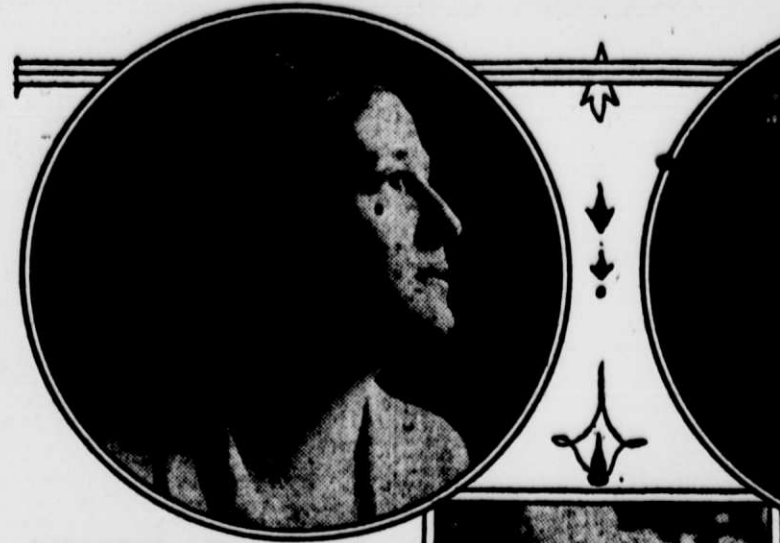
The novelist develops his characters deliberately and entertainingly. The rector has a calm and trustful nature. He is not disturbed by the intimacy between his youngest daughter and a poet. His wife watches, but not he. A very shrewd wisdom hides behind his quiet smile. His unconcern when the young people acquaint him with the news of their engagement has a distinctly provoking quality. He permits it to be seen that he considers the matter unimportant. He loses himself promptly in a book about garden seeds. He does not seem to understand at all what should be the plain attitude of a father whom a poet approaches with a proposal to enter the family. He leaves the business to time. He does this confidently—almost impolitely.

Guy's father is an intelligent man, a schoolmaster. Firmly, though not angrily, he objects to his son's selection of poetry as a chief calling in life and as a good means of earning a living. He objects too to the engage-ment of Guy and Pauline before the poet has proved himself in his mag-azine pieces and his books. The argu-ment here between father and son is an excellent illustration of two con-flicting views. Guy's efforts with the publishers are testimony to the clear vision of the parent. Of both parents, for unquestionably the rector had seen quite clearly.

Happily neither the poet nor Pauline was fitted to suffer desperately. There are indications at the last that both of them will get over it. A comedy of young love, delicately and amusingly told.

John Oxenham's story of "Broken Shackles" (John Lane Company) tells of what may be called the two lives of a young French aristocrat. The first part of the tale pictures the disas-ters and sufferings of the French army in the war of 1870. It reminds the reader of Zola's doleful story. Here again are the dreadful mistakes, the neglect of preparation, the confusion, the weariness and hunger. Capt. de Valle was an item of this unhappy army. At the last he was one of those who slipped over the border into Switzerland.

Here was instant and wonderful change and relief. There were reasons why the Captain should not care to return to France. He was unhappily married. His rich wife had no need of him. He had no duties toward her. She would be happy without him. In the changed France he did not value his social rank. He had money in his pocket. It was a wonderfully kind young woman who gave him milk and bread and cheese. He had an adventure with a company of franc tireurs. He received in his own breast a bullet meant for a young Swiss officer who in civil life shared the labors of his

BARONESS VON HUTTEN
AUTHOR OF "BIRDS FOUNTAIN"

father, the prosperous owner of a saw-mill.

Here was opportunity. The Cap-tain when he recovered changed his name to Duval. He became a member of Herr Bay's admirable family, shared in the work of the mill and married the beautiful and worthy daughter. The Swiss part of the story is admirable. There is the description of the simple mountain life and of the natural scenes and manifestations. It is a story throughout, full of incident, fresh in subject and treatment, ex-tremely interesting.

HOW TO DO THINGS.

Operators who wish to know be-forehand what they are going to see and hear, and some perhaps who may like to understand what it is they have looked upon, will be helped by the brief synopses of the plots of 110 operas included in Edith B. Ordway's "The Opera Book" (Sully and Kleinteich, New York). The selection is of such operas as have been presented in the chief American cities in recent years and of such as are promised for this season. With each a brief historical note is provided. The illustrations are portraits of popular singers in costume.

Real amateur actors who rely on their own resources and do not rush to costumeurs for their supplies may derive assistance from Constance D'Arcy Mackay's "Costumes and Scenery for Amateurs" (Henry Holt and Company). In spite of the didactic tone the suggestions about costumes are useful and are helped by the in-teresting references to books. The ways in which scenery may be im-provised are ingenious and practical. More than half the book is devoted to the description of specific costumes and stage settings.

A great deal of interesting infor-mation about the methods of "Making the Movies" (Macmillan) is supplied by Ernest A. Dench. He explains all sorts of difficulties attending the new indus-try which may occur to the reader and many which he will hardly sus-pect. There are plenty of hints to the students as to what they shall do. An essay to create aesthetic criticism of what he calls "The Art of the Moving Picture" is made by Vachel Lin-dsay (Macmillan). While he employs the vocabulary usually employed in discussing the real arts and is very enthusiastic over the artistic features of moving pictures, some readers may feel disinclined to accept his high es-timate of the present career.

In "What My Children Love to Eat" (Lloyd Adams Noble, New York) Eliza-beth Colson joins literary quotations to bills of fare suitable for children on various occasions. At the end she gives the recipes for preparing the dishes on the menus. A collection of American family recipes, authenticated by the donor's autograph, is printed on flyleaves, with solid covers in the Belgian colors and the title "Belgian Relief Cook Book." It is issued as a Christmas book, the proceeds to go to the aid of the Belgians. While bearing no imprint it is apparently printed by the Reading Eagle Company and has been prepared by a ladies' committee of Reading, Pa.

OTHER BOOKS.

An attractive holiday edition of Car-dinal Newman's poem "The Dream of Gerontius" is issued by the John Lane Company, with striking illustrations by Stella Langdale. It is possible that the author would have had as much trouble as the reader in making out the meaning of her mystical draw-ings, but they will repay the exer-tion. An introduction by Gordon Tidy, which fills nearly as many pages as the poem, supplies all needful infor-mation about its history.

It is substantially a picture book that Sheldon presents in "Beau-tiful Gardens of America" (Charles Scribner's Sons), though she supplies enough text to describe the gardens adequately. They are chiefly formal gardens, shown in eight colored and 177 halftone plates, all beautiful pic-tures. The gardens are grouped geo-graphically, the larger number being in the Eastern States and in Califor-nia, but there are specimens from all parts of the Union. The author sensibly tells just where these gardens are, which adds to the value of her gallery.

The portly volume on "Smoke Abatement and Electrification of Rail-way Terminals in Chicago," published

HABEL T. BOARDMAN, AUTHOR OF
"UNDER THE CROSS FLAG"

by the Chicago Association of Com-merce (Rand, McNally and Company, Chicago), contains much matter of permanent value and general interest besides the report of the committees on the practical problem submitted to them for solution. There is a pretty complete history of the growth of Chi-cago, for instance, besides very full accounts of smoke abatement and of electric traction throughout the world. The report itself is an admirable ex-ample of thorough, scientific work.

The reminiscences of Anthony W. Dimock contained in "Wall Street and the Wilds" (Outing Publishing Com-pany) suffer from the usual fault of such memories, the omission of the precise details about operations that would give them real value. There is enough spice in some of the things the author says and in some that he leaves unsaid to make the reader regret that he does not speak right out. The author began his Wall Street career before he was of age and can now talk keenly of his triumphs and his defeats. He drifts into the hobby of his later years, about half way through the volume, and turns from bulls and bears to life in the open and the creatures of the wilds. These supply most of the illustrations. It is an interesting and pleasant book.

It is a pity that Elizabeth W. Champney sticks to her plan of ming-ling rather gushing fiction with tradi-tions and legends in "Romance of Old Belgium" (P. Putnam's Sons), in which she is assisted by Frère Champ-ney, because the legends and history are picturesque enough to stand by themselves. The influence of the war is noticeable in the last story. In some of the pictures and in the chap-ter on Belgian architecture, which emphasizes the destruction committed. It is no war book, however, because the stories are selected fairly from the romantic history of Flanders.

We can be thankful to Stephen Gra-ham at least for leaving the war out of "The Way of Martha and the Way of Mary" (Macmillan), a title which dis-tinguishes his travels in Russia and East-ern lands during the past two years. His methods of journeying are the un-conventional ones he affects, he tries to draw out the ideas of the common peo-ple, we trust with more success than appears in his reports of the conversa-tions, and on this trip he was obsessed with the thought of discovering the foundations of Russian religious belief. We imagine the book reveals more of what Mr. Graham set out to discover than of any real belief Russians hold that differs from what other unedu-cated people believe in.

A memorial biography has been com-plied by Flora Haines Loughhead in the "Life, Diary and Letters of Oscar Lovell Shafter" (John J. Newberg, San Francisco). Judge Shafter was once a Justice of the Supreme Court of California, he was also an uncle of Gen. Shafter. He went from Vermont to California in the early '50s and for two years his diary and his letters home were full of information that will interest the general reader. After that the selections are more sparing and the interest more personal. A sketch of his useful career and some anec-dotes and other records are joined to this. Before becoming president of Colum-

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bia University Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler was professor of pedagogy, or education. He has collected in "The Meaning of Education" (Charles Scribner's Sons) addresses delivered and articles written in the last twenty years or so, with a brief address made last month. These embody his general ideas on the subject of which he made a special study. We quote a typical sentence from his latest utterance: "The ideal society and the ideal state is a democracy in which every man and every woman is fitted to be free, to put forth the best possible effort in self-expression through participation in the great human institutions and undertakings that constitute civilization, and in service to others like-minded with themselves. This is the social aim of a soundly conceived education." A mechanistic conception perhaps open to discussion.

Somewhat belated comes the forti-eth issue of "The Christian Year and Church Calendar" for 1914 (The Church Calendar Company, New York), adorned with a colored repro-duction of Correggio's "Holy Night." As usual, the Calendar is the vehicle of a vast amount of information of moment to Episcopalians. Useful descriptive pamphlets throw-ing light on the incidents of the war have been added to the "Pages Actuelles" series (Bloud et Gay, Paris). Georges Beaumont gives a clear and popular account of "Les Zepellins" and G. Blanchon one of "Les Sous-Marins et la Guerre Actuelle." Francis Marre tells what is done in "Dana les Tranchées du Front" and describes the construction of "Notre 75."

It has seemed proper to Vernon Lee to express her abomination of the war in a bitterly satirical and humor-ous "morality," which she calls "The Ballet of the Nations" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The need of putting in their word has affected many literary people in strange ways and others have shown equally bad taste. The allegory is illustrated with striking decorative drawings in red and white by Maxwell Armfield which fit the text. The ap-pearance of this thin gristle is very striking. It makes a pretty grim holi-day book.

ICONOGRAPHY OF
MANHATTAN ISLAND

Subscribers are invited by Mr. Rob-ert H. Dodd, professor in the firm of Dodd & Livingston, for "The Iconography of Manhattan Island," by I. N. Phelps Stokes, the first two volumes of which are now being printed. This work is a comprehensive history of the Island of Manhattan and of the city of New York, based upon a study of the available manuscript and printed records. It is illustrated by over three hundred and fifty reproductions of the rarest and most interesting paintings, drawings, prints, maps and documents in the public and private collections of America and Europe, relating to the history and development of the Island from the earliest times down to the Hudson-Fulton celebration, 1492-1909. Many of these are reproduced and de-scribed here for the first time.

In this survey the physical and topo-graphical aspects of the city's history are especially emphasized. Researches extending over a period of six years have been made in gov-ernment archives, libraries and public and private collections, and much original material has been obtained abroad as well as in this country, particularly in relation to the Hudson River ex-plorations in the immediate vicinity of Man-hattan Island and to the period of the island's first settlement and early de-velopment.

In the preparation of the Iconography the author has had the advice and as-sistance of Victor Hugo Palmita, lately New York State his secretary and present keeper of manuscripts in the New York Public Library, who spent nearly three years in special investigations for this work, to which he has contributed the bibliography and the greater part of the historical material relating to the Dutch period. In the difficult and almost unexplored field of early cartography relating to the neighborhood of Man-hattan Island the author has had the cooperation of Dr. F. C. Wieder, assistant librarian of the University of Amsterdam, who has prosecuted re-searches in the principal collections of Europe and has made many discoveries of importance and interest, which are here fully described. In this regard, as well as in connection with the plate descriptions, he is indebted also to Henry Stevens of London, and to Mr. Henri Tropé of Paris. In connection with the early Dutch grants and the topography generally the author is under obliga-tion for very active help to Miss J. V. MacCarthy and Clinton H. MacCarthy.

Books Received.

"Reminiscences of John Adey Curran, M. D." by John Curran. (Macmillan.)
"The Jolly Duchess." Charles E. Pearce. (Brentano's.)
"The French Poets." Amy Lowell. (Macmillan.)
"The Flower Art of Japan." Mary Averill. (John Lane Company.)
"Comparative Literature." Jesse Macy and John W. Gannaway. (Macmillan.)
"John Bunyan's Tabernacle." M. S. Pina. (Georgetown Visitation Convent, Washington.)
"The Romantic Shore." Agnes Edwards. (The Salem Press Company, Salem, Mass.)
"On the Trail of Stevenson." Clayton Hamilton. (Doubleday, Page and Company.)
"Form and Colour." Isala March Phillips. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)
"Dread Gods and Arthur Phibbs." (Houghton Mifflin Company.)
"The Crown of the World." St. Martin's Convent. (Longmans, Green and Company.)
"The American." Huntington Wilson. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)
"The Love and Marriage." Edward Howard Gregg. (S. W. Husbach.)
"The Prussian Wish." Edwin S. Holt. (Henry Holt and Company.)
"The Secret of the Law." Earl Purinton. (Robert M. McBride and Company, New York.)
"The A. B. C. of National Defense." J. W. Muller. (S. P. Dutton and Company.)
"The Secret of the Law." Earl Purinton. (Robert M. McBride and Company, New York.)
"The Life of Purpose." William G. Connolly. (Harvard University Press, Boston.)
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